



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

25 AUG 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

JUDGE WILLIAM C. CLARK, JR., ASSISTANT  
TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

FROM:

DAVID A. STOCKMAN  
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT:

Draft National Security Decision Directive

As requested by Col. Rye, we are providing him with suggested revisions to the alternative National Security Decision Directives related to the space station options discussed at the last SIG(space) meeting. Included is a new version to implement the deferral option which we believe would address more fully the concerns expressed by the SIG(space).

More importantly, because of the magnitude and significance of this decision, we believe that a cabinet level meeting of principals with the President should be convened to consider the options. An NSC meeting of SIG(space) members would appear to be the logical forum.

With regard to the draft NSDDs, there are two major problems:

- o The version corresponding to a commitment now to a manned space station is too specific given the relatively immature status of the proposed project. It would be inappropriate to ask the President to make decisions now on a specific program structure, schedule, and cost estimate when supporting details on these elements have not undergone interagency or Executive Office review. Additional definition work is needed to support the choice of a particular program structure and to verify the cost estimates.
- o The version which would implement the deferral option allows only limited further study efforts, with Presidential decisions mandated by next March. We believe this approach would not address adequately the serious concerns raised by the SIG(space).

Since the SIG(space) has indicated that this is primarily a civil issue (no current national security requirements), the proposed space station concept should be reviewed independently, along with credible conceptual alternatives, in the context of commercial and scientific needs for space capabilities through the remainder of the century.

NSC review completed.

DCI  
EXEC  
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Because of the strong concerns articulated by a majority of the SIG(space) members, we urge strongly that the President be asked to direct that the White House Science Council undertake a review of the space station in the civil context, as we have suggested in our recommended revisions to the draft NSDDs. We believe this approach would satisfy many of the concerns raised by the SIG(space) and could be done with sufficient dispatch to permit timely decisions on programmatic options. We recommend that the President be asked to consider the issue at an NSC meeting of SIG(space) members in early September.

## SPACE STATION

The option I NSDD should be at the policy level and avoid contentious detail:

- o The Decision. This is the major element of the NSDD and is properly stated as written.
- o Basis for the Decision. The claims made here are NASA technical claims that were disputed strongly by the SIG. This section appears to contain unnecessary rhetorical material. We suggest that this section be deleted.
- o Space Station Program Description. This section prematurely attempts to describe various program elements, architecture, and costs. The entire section should also be deleted.

The SIG has raised serious concerns about the requirements and costs for the configuration proposed in Option I in considering whether any space station should be built. Even if the President were to choose to make an immediate commitment to a space station, it would be inappropriate to suggest that the President commit to programmatic details when the supporting definition work has not been completed and made available for review by the SIG(space) members or the EOP staff.

- o Relationship to other Programs. Again, the current draft is written in terms of claims, not Presidential policy. Such a section should be written more directly. We suggest that this section be reduced to the following and moved to the Implementation Section:

"In the design and development of the Space Station, including the scheduling of all related work, NASA will work closely with potential national security users to best assure that any prospective national requirements are accommodated in the most efficient manner. The program will be implemented so as not to adversely affect space programs and priorities in the national security sector."

The first priority of the civil space program will continue to be placed on making the Space Transportation System fully operational."

- o Implementation. Again, it would be inappropriate to solicit Presidential policy guidance on programmatic details until the program has been defined in detail and reviewed in the budget process. This section also inappropriately solicits guidance on the rest of the NASA budget. Again, these are decisions that should be made in the budget process.

## MORE PERMANENT U.S. PRESENCE IN SPACE

### I. The Decision

The United States is committed to space leadership, technological superiority, and the peaceful exploration and use of space for the benefit of all mankind. Consistent with these goals, the U.S. is committed to establishing a more permanent U.S. presence in space. To help define the best means for achieving a more permanent U.S. presence in space, additional study is needed to better understand the utility of man in space before program commitments are made. Decisions on any major new initiative to develop more permanent space facilities, including a possible manned space station, will be placed in context with decisions on the balance of the civil space program and major new space activities, including defense against ballistic missiles and future space systems survivability enhancements.

### II. Implementation

The following actions will be taken to permit orderly consideration of new initiatives to develop permanent space facilities in context with the balance of the civil space program and other new space initiatives:

- o NASA will present to OMB by October 15, 1983 all available information on the specific requirements, architecture and program structure, costs, manpower, and risks related to the development of a manned space station.
- o OSTP, through the White House Science Council, will undertake and complete by November 15, 1983 an independent assessment of commercial and scientific needs and outstanding opportunities for new space capabilities through the remainder of the century. This review will specifically consider:
  - Alternative means of meeting mission requirements and the resource implications of each alternative.
  - The utility of man in space and the uniqueness of a manned space station for expanding man's role in space.
  - Major risks that might result from a commitment to a manned space station and affect adversely other space programs.
  - The extent to which additional capabilities, not included in program options as defined to-date, would need to be developed to effectively utilize permanent space facilities.

- The proper phasing of activities leading to the achievement of more permanent space facilities. This should include any initial capabilities that should be developed or additional experiments or program definition that should be undertaken before major program commitments are considered.

NASA, DOD, DCI, and OMB will cooperate fully in assisting OSTP in this assessment.

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